

ROWLEY REGIS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
STAFFORDSHIRE,

Annual Report

FOR YEAR 1920,

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health,

C. H. COX, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.A.,

—ON THE—

Health of the District,

INCLUDING REPORTS FROM THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

AND THE

HEALTH VISITORS.

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ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
STAFFORDSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920, which contains the usual statistics of Births, Deaths and Birth Rates, Rates of Mortality and Infantile Mortality from general and special causes ; the Infectious Disease Notifications received, and a record of the work done by the Health Department during the year.

It is impossible to obviate a certain amount of repetition in compiling the information required by the several Authorities to whom this report is sent, but I have endeavoured to follow, as far as possible, the instructions contained in the Local Government Board's Memorandum.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE DISTRICT.

Rowley Regis is the largest Urban District in Staffordshire, and is situate in the extreme South-west of the County. It is essentially a manufacturing and colliery district, but there is a small

area of agricultural land, and a few Granite Quarries in the more elevated parts of the Parish. The general altitude is high, ranging from 346 feet above sea level in Cradley Heath Ward to 893 feet in Rowley Regis Ward, and the geological formation is also of a varied character. Mining subsidences are of rather frequent occurrence.

The area of the district is 3,670 acres, exclusive of the portion covered by water, and the estimated population to the middle of 1920 is 39,334.

The population, which consists chiefly of ironworkers, colliers and quarrymen is by no means evenly distributed, but is aggregated around the chief centres of industry.

The wards are thus constituted :—

TIVIDALE.—Geological formation—Loose loam, sub-soil clay and roche (part water logged). Brick making and Iron working are the chief industries, but a portion of this ward is entirely agricultural. This ward has three representatives on the Council.

ROWLEY REGIS.—The most elevated ward of the district is principally agricultural in character, but other industries are—granite quarrying, coal mining and rivet making. The Birmingham Canal from Windmill End to Powke Lane forms part of the boundary, and the geological formation consists of loam, clay and granite. This ward has four representatives on the Council.

BLACK HEATH.—The smallest and most thickly populated area is entirely industrial. The chief industries being iron working, galvanizing and shop keeping. This ward is again bounded on the lower side by the Birmingham Canal which thus forms the dividing line between the upper and lower divisions of the Parish. Geological formation—roche and part sand. This ward has three representatives on the Council.

OLD HILL.—Chiefly industrial in character and practically the most central ward of the district. Its geological structure consists of clay and blue roche, and portions of this area are water logged. The principal industries are chain making, coal mining, various forms of finished iron work, boot making and coke burning. The boundaries on two sides are formed by the Birmingham Canal and Mouse Sweet Brook. This ward has five representatives on the Council.

CRADLEY HEATH.—The home of the chain making industry, is entirely a manufacturing centre, and amongst its other products may be mentioned anchor making, hollow ware and other forms of finished iron goods. The principal boundaries are the River Stour and Mouse Sweet Brook, which here divide Staffordshire from the County of Worcestershire. This ward is geologically formed of clay and blue roche, part water-logged.

In the chain making industry a large proportion of female labour is employed, but this may also be said to apply to most of the other classes of finished iron manufactories. No particular influence detrimental to public health can generally be ascribed to the various occupations of the District, although the employment of so much female labour tends to a disregard of home life, which is to be deplored. This ward has five representatives on the Council.

The following extracts are taken from the Registrar General's Memorandum :—

1.—The numbers of births and deaths are those registered during the calendar year, and are corrected for inward and outward transfers, they will differ therefore from uncorrected figures compiled locally, either for the calendar year or for a period of fifty-two or fifty-three weeks.

2.—**Population.**—In 1920 demobilization had reached a stage at which it is felt that the distinction between “ birth-rate populations and death-rate populations,” made during the period

when a large part of the male population was under arms, might in general be discontinued. For most districts, therefore, a single estimate of population is shown, and this is applicable to both births and deaths. For a few areas which contain an appreciable non-civilian population, however, two estimates of population, one for calculation of the birth rate and one for the civilian death rate are given, as in recent years.

3.—The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from certifying practitioners in response to special enquiries. The principal subjects of these enquiries are indicated in a table published in the yearly reports of the Registrar General, and this possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar General and to those compiled locally should be borne in mind, particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

The following Table shows the number of Births registered by the Local Registrar in each Ward
in the District during 1920.

1920.	Tividale.		Rowley Regis.		Blackheath.		Old Hill.		Cradley Heath.		Total.		Quarterly Totals.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
January	-	4	5	14	12	12	17	17	12	19	51	66	316
February	-	6	9	3	8	9	13	14	12	12	48	44	
March	-	8	5	9	14	13	11	20	12	12	45	62	
April	-	6	15	12	9	15	12	15	14	11	56	59	
May	-	4	10	8	11	8	11	17	13	15	54	50	327
June	-	4	12	15	8	10	17	17	10	9	53	55	
July	-	6	7	10	13	12	22	12	12	12	55	52	
August	-	0	10	8	8	10	17	20	11	13	50	51	
September	-	2	5	5	9	8	13	13	16	11	45	39	292
October	-	5	12	9	4	10	11	13	11	9	40	46	
November	-	5	10	6	14	5	14	10	7	13	48	39	
December	-	1	7	8	7	9	17	19	6	8	41	45	
Totals	-	51	107	107	117	121	175	187	136	142	587	608	1195

Causes of Death during the Year 1920, in the Rowley Regis Urban District.

Causes of death.	Registrar General's Return.			Local Statistics
	Males.	Females	Totals.	Totals.
All Causes.	281	244	525	527
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	4	1	5	5
Scarlet Fever ...	0	2	2	2
Whooping Cough ...	4	7	11	9
Diphtheria and Croup ...	4	2	6	6
Influenza ...	27	25	52	49
Erysipelas ...	1	1	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	12	12	24	21
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	1	3	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	5	3	8	8
Cancer, malignant disease ...	11	16	27	28
Rheumatic Fever ...	2	2	4	4
Meningitis ...	0	2	2	4
Organic Heart disease ...	19	21	40	48
Bronchitis ...	28	17	45	49
Pneumonia. all forms ...	34	21	55	55
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	1	5	6
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	12	4	16	17
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	0	2	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3	1	4	4
Alcoholism ...	0	0	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's disease ...	5	10	15	19
Puerperal Fever ...	0	4	4	1
Parturition (apart from Puerperal Fever ...	0	5	5	3
Congenital Debility, &c. ...	19	14	33	19
Violence apart from Suicide ...	12	7	19	15
Suicide ...	4	0	4	4
Other defined causes ...	68	63	131	135
Others illdefined or unknown...	1	0	1	9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	67	44	111	109
Illegitimate ...	5	2	7	7
Total Births ...	595	613	1208	1195
Legitimate ...	575	598	1173	1168
Illegitimate ...	20	15	35	27
Population for Births & Deaths			38214	

Poor Law Relief.

Rowley Regis forms part of the Dudley Union for poor law purposes. The total amount of poor law relief expended in this parish during the year 1920, paid to out paupers was £1866 7s. 2d.

Hospital and Medical Relief.

There is no hospital or public dispensary in the district other than the Council's Isolation Hospital at Tividale, but a number of such Institutions in Birmingham, West Bromwich and Dudley are supported to a considerable extent by contributions from this parish. The South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital at Maxley has been converted into a temporary sanatorium for the reception of insured tubercular patients from this district, and Smallpox patients are now received at their temporary hospital at Bagnal, North Staffs.

The district Motor Ambulance affords easy access to any of the neighbouring Institutions. Any Medical Practitioner can order it in case of urgency, but not for infectious diseases.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.

A good, continuous and sufficient water supply is obtained from the South Staffordshire Water Works Company's Mains. There are still a few wells in isolated parts of the district where it has been impracticable to extend the mains. The water is of a hard character. The number of houses in the district supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company is 7871.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Stour and Mouse Sweet Brook form the southern division between Staffordshire and Worcestershire, and the natural drainage of the northern portion of the district is to the river Tame. The two above brooks form the boundaries of the lower parts between Staffordshire and the County Councils under the River

Pollution Act, and undertake the chief routine work which mainly comes from waste and from manufacturers. The sewerage pollution of Mouse Sweet Brook which occurred during last year has now been remedied by the Dudley Authorities, and now seems in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Drainage and Sewerage.

This district forms part of the area of the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board, whose outfall works are situate at Whittington, near Stourbridge. The sewage is treated on the broad irrigation principle, and the effluent is discharged into the River Stour. In June the Dudley Corporation wrote to say that the sewage was complete, and that the whole sour sewage was diverted on May 31st, 1920.

There is also a small sewerage works provided at Tividale which deals with the sewage from the houses in that ward, and the effluent therefrom is discharged into a tributary of the Tame. An additional filter bed is being provided at these works, chiefly to take the sewage from Burnt Tree district in Dudley. The main drain in Hawes Lane in the Rowley Ward, has now been reconstructed.

Some little difficulty has been encountered with respect to the drainage in King and Queen Street, Cradley Heath. This was owing to some surface water drains discharging into an old brook culvert. After some difficulty the ends were traced and the drains connected with the deep sewer. Twenty one new connections to the sewer have been made during the past year.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the district is under the water carriage system. Rural parts and isolated cottages which are not within reach of a sewer, are still under the conservancy system. A table showing the rate of progress made in the conversion of privy middens to the water carriage system during the last eight years will be found in the Inspector's Report, also a Table showing the

approximate number and type of sanitary conveniences now in the district.

Scavenging.

At the beginning of the year the removal of night soil and house refuse was carried out under contract, the refuse being deposited on tips, which are not in close proximity to houses. In the beginning of the year there were large accumulations of refuse about the district, which did not appear to have been removed as frequently as was necessary. This probably arose through the dearth of labour and also through the increase of wages demanded by the working class, which made it impossible for the Contractor to carry out his duties without loss.

The matter came up in the January meeting and members of the Council were then very dissatisfied with the state of the work. So many complaints had been received that action must immediately be taken, and for the Inspector to interview the Contractor.

Again in February it was discussed as to the Council taking up the work themselves, buying carts and teams for the work, but the matter was deferred till September when the present contract would expire.

In May however the work was more in arrears that the Committee anticipating the advent of flies authorised the Inspector to hire carts, team and men, and at once to help to clear some of the great excess left behind, and the three sureties (who had already been advised as to the condition of matters) were to be held responsible for the state of affairs.

In June it was considered that the present Contractor had not fulfilled his obligation, and that the Contract should be given to another Contractor who had teams and carts all immediately

available. This was for the upper wards, the lower wards to be advertised.

The work since the new Contractor has been appointed has been most satisfactory, there being no complaints since.

Five hundred and ninety five deaths have occurred in the district during the year, giving an annual death rate of 16·19 on a population of 36,749. Of these 109 were of infants under one year of age. The Infantile Mortality rate 82·8 per 1,000 births is lower for this district for over ten years, and is also below that given for the 148 smaller towns.

Comparison in the rate of Infantile Mortality for the past ten years have been :—

1911	Rate	117·16	per 1,000 births.		
1912	„	120·91	„	„	„
1913	„	116·1	„	„	„
1914	„	112·27	„	„	„
1915	„	134·93	„	„	„
1916	„	104·67	„	„	„
1917	„	91·195	„	„	„
1918	„	90·526	„	„	„
1919	„	89·32	„	„	„
1920	„	82·8	„	„	„

The general death rate shows a decrease every year since 1911.

The following are the Registrar-General's Returns, together with the local statistics.

It will be noticed that in many instances there is a discrepancy between the local returns and the central records, but for the purpose of giving mortality and birth rates, the Registrar-General's figures are accepted as the correct ones.

Births, Deaths and Rate of Mortality for the Year 1920.

Births	D'ths	Birth-rate.	Annual Death Rate per 1000 from					Per-centage of Deaths under One Year to Births regist'rd	Percentage of Total Deaths to Deaths.					
			All Causes.	Princip'l Zymotic Diseases (other than Tuber-culosis & Pneumo-nia).	Tuber-culosis (all forms).	Pneumo-nia (all forms).	Heart.		Of Infants under One year of Age.	Of Persons over 65 Years of Age.	From Princip'l Zymotic Diseases (other than Tu-b'rculo's & Pneu-monia).	From Tuber-culosis (all forms)	From Pneu-monia (all forms)	From Heart.
1195	527	31·29	13·79	·42	·78	1·17	1·25	9·12	20·68	23·33	3·03	5·69	10·42	9·1

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1920.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population	Annual Death Rate per 1000.									Rate per 1000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.	Total deaths under one year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Uncertified causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.
ENGLAND AND WALES ...	25·4	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·04	0·11	0·15	0·28	0·48	8·3	80	24·3	92·2	1·2	6·6
96 Great Towns. including London (Census population exceeding 50,000)	26·2	12·5	0·0	0·00	0·22	0·04	0·14	0·16	0·31	0·43	10·4	85	31·3	92·2	0·7	7·1
148 Smaller Towns (Census population 20,000—50,000)	24·9	11·3	0·02	0·00	0·19	0·03	0·10	0·14	0·27	0·38	7·8	80	16·5	93·2	1·5	5·3
LONDON ...	26·5	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·22	0·05	0·17	0·22	0·30	0·47	9·5	75	46·8	91·2	0·2	8·6

ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you a summary of the work carried out in the Health Department during 1920.

Mr. J. Cook, Assistant Inspector, took up his duties at the Fire Station on January 1st. Mr. P. D. Masson, Assistant Inspector for the Upper Wards commenced duties on February 9th. Mr. Salt carried out his duties in the Lower Wards as usual.

With this arrangement of "District Work" many inspections have been carried out, notices served and work done with advantage, as will be seen in this report, as against previous years, and the Sanitary Condition of the district is somewhat better.

Mr. W. Yardley resigned his appointment as Clerk in October, and this position is now filled by Miss H. Harrison, who is indeed a capable assistant.

Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Much work is yet required to be done. The real trouble of the district is the old condition of the property, together with the subsidence caused by the mines and the dirty state of the dwellings

themselves. This latter condition, whilst the tenants may be in some degree responsible, as also, probably the indifference of the owners, is really due to the prevailing conditions of the district—a manufacturing area.

As will be seen in the report, 224 houses have been cleansed during the year, and these have been done without having to resort to Statutory measures. Waggon Street, Tibbett's Garden, and part of Britannia Street have been cleansed almost in their entirety.

In the early part of the year, at my request, the Health Committee authorised me to purchase six limewash brushes and lend them free of charge to householders, for the purpose of limewashing and cleansing their own workshops and dwellings.

These brushes were in continuous demand during the spring and summer months, and have certainly done much good work during that time.

The Dirty Tenant.

It is somewhat difficult to deal with this class of people. Various suggestions have been made by public and other authorities, but the real solution seems as far off as ever. It is certainly evident that the present powers to deal with the matter require strengthening somewhat.

If owners when letting the houses, would put the onus of responsibility for inside repairs and decorations on the tenant, this would, no doubt, considerably assist the Health Authorities.

The most forward step in this direction is that taken by the City of Sheffield under a private Corporation Act, 1920, to the effect that "where the owner of a Dwelling House represents to the Authority that the occupier habitually maintains his premises in a filthy condition, the Corporation, if satisfied as to the truth of the statement, may apply for an ejectment order, the owner to defray the costs."

Rent Restriction Act.

The latest act under this heading allows the owners of Dwelling Houses to increase the rent 30 per cent, 25 per cent of which is allowed for repairs. Sanitary Authorities may grant certificates of unfitness, etc., and the increase may be suspended until the house is in a reasonable state of repair, on application to the County Court.

This permission may assist in the getting of the necessary repairs carried out though it is probably somewhat of an omission that in the determining of these certificates the adjudication of the Sanitary Authorities is not called for.

Destruction of Foliage at the New Cemetery.

During the summer I accompanied the Surveyor and made several inspections with reference to this matter, and found that the condition of the atmosphere is the cause of this complaint.

Infectious Disease.

198 cases of Infectious Disease were visited and reported during the past year (excluding Tuberculosis) 290 houses were fumigated and 97 lots of clothing and bedding disinfected by Superheated Steam at the Council's Disinfector, including those after fatal cases of Phthisis. Three beds were destroyed.

A free supply of disinfectants has been provided in all infectious cases, and in addition 68 Tuberculosis patients have received cards of instruction and sputum flasks during the course of the year. Four schools were fumigated during the August vacation.

Slaughterhouses.

594 visits have been made to Slaughterhouses during the year. Slaughtering for human food was restricted to the premises of Mr. A. T. Homer, Reddall Hill Road, Old Hill, and of Mr. W. J. Payne, High Street, Blackheath, until July 3rd. After this date slaughtering was continued in the various 26 slaughterhouses in the

district after application for licenses had been made to the Food Controller.

This is temporarily out of the hands of the Local Authorities.

Application was made for a license of the Knackers Yard, situated at John's Lane, Tividale, and this was granted by the Council in December.

One prosecution was taken in January in respect of the Pigs Pluck which was exposed for sale in Cradley Heath during the month of December, 1919. Penalty £5 and costs.

Another prosecution was taken in December under the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, for the sale of unsound Pork. The penalty imposed was £5, and £2 2s. 6d. costs.

The following quantity of unsound foodstuffs have been destroyed during the year 1920 :—

Sheep's Liver and Lungs	-	44 lbs.
Cow's Liver and Lungs	-	109 lbs.
Carcase of Pig	- -	240 lbs.
Carcase of Beef	- -	815 lbs.
Bacon	- - -	161 lbs.
Carcase of Calf	- -	329 lbs.
Pig's Pluck	- - -	9 lbs.
Roast Pork	- - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Potatoes	- - -	1 ton.
Condensed Milk	- -	240 tins.
Rabbits	- - -	30

CANAL BOATS ACT.

The Annual Report required by the Ministry of Health to be furnished within 21 days after the 31st December, was prepared and reported to the Council as follows :—

“ 3rd January, 1921.

The Chairmen and Members,

Urban District Council of Rowley Regis.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report with respect to the Inspection of Canal Boats for the year 1920.

Only one case of overcrowding was found during the year, and this was abated almost immediately.

The Canal Boats generally passing through this district were in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC LONGFELLOW,

Canal Boat Inspector.

Number of Boats inspected in 1920	...	...	44
Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations			43
Number of Boats infringing the Acts and Regulations	...	.	1
Total number for which cabins were registered		...	158
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	135

Details of occupations :—

Male adults	...	...	51
Female adults	...	...	30
Children of school age	...		30
Children under school age	...		24

Details showing the number infringing in respect to :—

			Number of cases met with.	Number of cases remedied.
Overcrowding	...	...	1	1

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 36 Cowsheds on the register and 44 Purveyors of Milk. These have been periodically visited and in one case necessary alterations carried out.

Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

Twenty-two premises or stores are licensed for petroleum. Five new Licenses have been granted this year. There are also six carbide stores Licensed. One new License granted this year. These places were visited frequently and were found satisfactory.

Factories and Workshops.

There were 1,401 workshops on the register, and an additional 11 have been reported, making a total of 1,412. As previously mentioned, the Council have provided limewash brushes and lent them out free of charge to Outworkers and occupiers of Workshops. 74 Outworker's premises and 341 Workshops have been cleansed and limewashed against 12 in the previous year.

A new register has been compiled of the various Bakehouses in the district, which now records 36 in existence.

Twenty-two Complaint Notes have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and have been dealt with.

The list of work carried out under this heading will be found in the "Synopsis of work and improvements carried out in compliance with notices served, etc."

Thirteen outworker's lists have been received and 238 outworker's premises have been visited.

Tents, Vans and Dwellings.

Periodical visits have been made throughout the year, and the general conditions have been fairly satisfactory.

In my last year's report I recommended the advisability of

making Bye-Laws to deal with this class of Dwelling, in which I was strongly supported by the late Medical Officer (Dr. Beasley). I am glad to report this is now well in hand, and at the time of writing is only waiting the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

One Hundred and Forty inspections have been made this year under this Act. Owing to the scarcity of houses, labour, materials and inflated prices, no really stringent action has been taken, but the minor nuisances have been dealt with.

Only in one case has a Dwelling House been demolished, but this was done owing to its dangerous structural condition, apart from its insanitary state.

Situation of Houses for which Closing Orders have been served during 1920.

269 Halesowen Road, voluntary demolished.

Premises rear of 8 Throne Lane, Rowley Regis, closed.

Details of Inspections, etc.

Number of houses inspected and records made	-	-	140
„ „ „ specially reported as unfit for human habitation	-	-	2
„ „ „ closing order made by local authorities			2
„ „ „ demolished	-	-	1
„ „ „ for which notices have been served	-		74
„ „ „ notices complied with	-	-	51

NOTE.—Notices for repairs were served under the Public Health Acts, 1875.

Sanitary Conditions of Theatres, Music Halls, etc.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health to the Local Authorities, that the Inspector of Nuisances do inspect and report with regard to the above matter, an inspection of the

various local entertainment places was made, with the result that one Picture House was refused a license for the performance of Plays on account of the danger of Fire. One Picture House was also voluntarily cleansed and redecorated throughout.

Scavenging.

During the year the Contractors returns show 14,452 loads of nightsoil and house refuse as having been removed from premises and deposited on the various tips. The condition of the District is now very satisfactory, and very few requests for refuse removal are made. This is owing to the fact that in the Upper Wards streets are dealt with as a whole, and refuse removed whether the pits are full or not.

Previously and up to this year the yearly contracts terminated on March 31st. This was not at all a suitable time for a new contractor to take over the work, inasmuch as there was insufficient time for the winter's accumulation to be cleared away before the new contract commenced. This point was particularly brought to light during the spring months. All contracts now terminate on the 31st October, thus enabling the Contractor to effectually deal with the previous winter's accumulation during the easiest time of the year.

I would particularly like to emphasize the unsatisfactory method of accepting contracts for a period of 12 months only. Terms of three or five years would enable cheaper contracts to be given, and the work would be carried out more methodically.

It is only reasonable that a private person cannot lay out plant for a period of 12 months only, at a cut price, without seeing some little return.

Privy Conversions.

During the year 42 Privies have been voluntarily converted into W.C's., and the following is the approximate number and type of Sanitary Conveniences now in the district :—

Wards.	No. of Water Closets.	No. of Ashpits not connected with Closets.	No. of Ashbins.	No. of Privy Closets.	No. of Ashpits connected with Closets.
Cradley Heath	1799	841	513	50	39
Old Hill	2032	1020	612	229	95
Black Heath	1088	533	313	33	30
Rowley Regis	765	317	195	122	181
Tividale	503	207	117	70	66
Totals	6187	2918	1750	504	411

A great many of these privies exist in the rural parts of the District, and in several other instances on account of the distance from the Sewer, it is not possible for them to be converted.

Table showing the rate of progress made in the conversion of privy middens to the water-carriage system during the last few years.

Years.	No. of Water Closets.	No. of Ashpits not connected with Closets.	No. of Movable Ashbins.	No. of Privy Closets.	No. of Ashpits connected with Closets.	No. of Conversions made Annually.
1916	6088	2892	1687	578	455	78
1917	6095	2887	1707	572	448	6
1918	6099	2888	1711	568	446	4
1919	6147	2896	1723	546	433	22
1920	6187	2918	1750	504	411	42

Public Mortuaries.

Number of Bodies received in Old Hill Mortuary in 1920	14
„ Post Mortem Examinations held	8
„ Bodies received in Tividale Mortuary in 1920	0
„ Post Mortem Examinations held	0

Details of Inspections made during 1920.

Special Inspections under the Housing Act	140
Dwellings inspected including re-visits regarding repairs, etc.	1451
Visits and re-visits to Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis cases	1060
Yards and Outbuildings	248
Privies and Ashpits, etc.	6356
Urinals	75
Water Closets	2860
Drains	1057

Slaughterhouses	594
Knacker's Yards	4
Offensive Trades	3
Smoke Inspections	14
Meat Shops	57
Wet Fish Shops	55
Fried Fish Shops	80
Stables	78
Piggeries	296
Factories	69
Workshops	1325
Outworkers	238
Bakehouses	273
Cowsheds	127
Dairies	28
Manure Pits	126
Van Dwellings	56
Water Courses, Ditches, etc.	6
Canal Boats	44
Carbide Stores	12
Petroleum Stores	45
Animals kept	30
Interviews with Owners, etc.	472
Miscellaneous Inspections	394
Poster Bills Delivered	55
Visits paid to Theatres, Picture Houses, etc.	6
	<hr/>
Total Inspections, etc.	17,734
	<hr/>

Synopsis of Work and Improvements carried out in compliance with Notices Served, etc.

DWELLINGS.

Repaired	82
Ventilated	3
Cleansed	224

Water removed from cellars	18
Overcrowding abated	5
Roofs repaired	171
Spouting repaired	39
New Spouting provided	3
Dampness abated	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Houses fumigated	290
Schools fumigated	4
Bedding fumigated	76
Bedding destroyed	3
Other articles fumigated	21
Library books fumigated	2
Bottles of disinfectant supplied	179

YARDS AND OUTBUILDINGS.

Yards repaired	10
Sinks provided and repaired	24
Sink Waste Pipes fixed and repaired	27
Wash-houses and yards cleansed	136
Wash-houses repaired	30
New Wash-houses provided	4
Soft Water Cisterns opened and cleansed	1
New covers to Soft Water Cisterns	1

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

Conversions	42
Privies demolished	57
Ashpits demolished	13
Dustbins in lieu of Ashpits	17
Ashpits repaired and rebuilt	16
Ashpits re-roofed	9
Dustbins renewed	79
Privies repaired or rebuilt	80

URINALS.

Provided	11
Cleansed	13

WATER CLOSETS.

Repaired	73
New W.C. Basins fitted	39
Flushing Apparatus repaired	128
New Cisterns fixed	36
Cleansed	304

CANAL BOATS.

Overcrowding abated	1
---------------------	---

DRAINS.

No. of New Drains (yards)	1154
New Gulleys provided	43
New Inspection Chambers	38
New Inspection Chamber Covers	48
New Vent Shafts or Repaired	31
New Connections to Sewer	21
Drains and W.C.'s unstopped	181
New intercepting traps	15
Cellar Drains to Sewer	6
Drains tested	2
Drains opened under Section 41 P.H.A.	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Cleansed	21
New Flooring	1
Carbage Bins provided	2
Offensive matter removed	1

SMOKE.

Nuisances abated	1
------------------	---

MEAT SHOPS.

Cleansed	3
----------	---

WET FISH SHOPS.

Cleansed	4
----------	---

Fish Boxes removed	6
--------------------	---

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Cleansed	8
----------	---

Fish Boxes removed	6
--------------------	---

STABLES.

Cleansed	22
----------	----

PIGGERIES.

Cleansed	141
----------	-----

Drained	5
---------	---

FACTORIES.

Where sufficient W.C. accommodation has been provided	12
--	----

W.C.'s Repaired	8
-----------------	---

W.C.'s Cleansed	16
-----------------	----

WORKSHOPS.

Where sufficient W.C. accommodation has been provided	2
--	---

Workshops repaired	9
--------------------	---

Cleansed and limewashed	341
-------------------------	-----

Fowls removed	1
---------------	---

OUTWORKERS.

Premises cleansed	74
-------------------	----

BAKEHOUSES.

Cleansed	34
----------	----

Rubbish removed	4
-----------------	---

COWSHEDS.

Cleansed	-	-	-	-	25
Cows groomed	-	-	-	-	1
Ventilated	-	-	-	-	1

MANURE PITS.

Manure removed	-	-	-	-	55
Pits repaired	-	-	-	-	2

VAN DWELLINGS.

Closet accommodation provided	-	-	-	-	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	-	-	-	-	1

WATER COURSES, DITCHES, ETC.

Cleansed	-	-	-	-	1
----------	---	---	---	---	---

CARBIDE STORES.

Proper structures provided	-	-	-	-	1
Proper storage Bins provided	-	-	-	-	1

PETROLEUM STORES.

Proper structures provided	-	-	-	-	1
Proper pit accommodation provided	-	-	-	-	1

ANIMALS KEPT.

Nuisances abated	-	-	-	-	11
------------------	---	---	---	---	----

THEATRES.

Urinals cleansed	-	-	-	-	1
------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Total number of nuisances abated	-	-	-	-	3810
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	------

Total number of yards of drainage	-	-	-	-	1154
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Water Supply.

Number of houses in the district supplied with S.S.W.	-	-	-	-	7871
---	---	---	---	---	------

Number of Notices Served, etc.

The number of nuisances on the books December 31st, 1919	-	-	-	-	-	218
The number of notices served for nuisances which were reported during the year 1920	-	-	-	-	-	1569
(This includes 7 Statutory Notices)						
					Total	-
						1787
The number removed during the year, including seven Statutory Notices complied with	-	-	-	-	-	1625
The number remaining on the books December 31st, 1920						162
Letters to owners, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	169
Legal proceedings for nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	0
Legal proceedings for exposure of unsound meat, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	2
Convictions obtained	-	-	-	-	-	2

In concluding I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and valuable support, also to my staff whose loyal assistance has made it possible to cope with so much work in arrears.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC LONGFELLOW,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

Frequent systematic inspections have been made of the school premises during the past year, and one School (Doulton Road) has been painted inside and out.

The floors of the Infant Department at Cradley Heath were found to be defective and taken up, and various new timbers were put in their place, the gallery in each school was removed and the two rooms were made safe.

The general sanitary conditions are satisfactory, but most of the Schools require painting and renovating.

The schools have ample playgrounds, and all fulfill the requirements of the Ministry of Education.

There are thirteen elementary Council Schools, with twenty-eight departments, including Infants, Boys and Girls. There is accommodation for 8,580 children, of whom there are 6,931 on the books at the end of 1920.

At Wright's Lane School, Tividale, and Siviter's Lane Schools, there are schools for Cookery and Woodwork.

In addition there is a separate Laundry for instruction at Siviter's Lane School.

Ventilation.

The schools are well ventilated, the same principles being used in practically all the schools. Air inlets are all on the upcast free admission principle, although the apparatus used for the purpose varies in the different schools; some have inlets in the basement of the windows, others Tobin's Tubes or upcast shafts in walls, others Hopper window panes. In some cases two or more of the methods named are used in the same school. Outlets are constructed at the highest points of rooms by wooden trunks from ceilings to roof ridges, and Boyle's Self Acting Extractors, or other Extractors on a similar principle are affixed thereon. Cross window ventilation for flushing the rooms with air when children are not in, or for opening in hot weather are plentiful and in good working order. These windows are of the type known as swing lights, and are well above the heads of persons in the room.

Lighting.

All the schools are well lighted by means of windows in the external walls, and windows in partitions which divide class rooms. Artificial light is provided by gas and incandescent burners.

Electric light is being fitted in Corngreaves School.

Warming.

Low pressure water pipes and radiators are in general use for heating purposes. In the Infants class rooms there are open fire-places. There are also coal stoves in some of the schools which have no special Teacher's room.

Sanitary Conveniences and Lavatories.

The water closets are generally of the trough type, with automatic cisterns for flushing purposes. In the two latest schools erected, separate pedestal W.C.'s have been installed.

The urinals are chiefly brick built, open buildings with slate partitions, but in the newer schools glazed bricks or tiles are used for internal work. The flushing apparatus for the sanitary conveniences at each school is regulated by and under the control of the caretaker.

Adequate lavatory accommodation is provided at each school. In the newer schools, special lock-up compartments, fitted with radiators are provided, and the whole of the lavatories are well lighted and ventilated. The washing basins in each lavatory are properly disconnected, and the waste pipes discharge on a syphon gully trap in the school yards.

Water Supply.

All the schools in this district are provided with a "constant" supply of water direct from the mains of the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, and is under the control of the School Caretaker.

Cleanliness.

Each school is thoroughly cleansed and washed down at least three times a year, and a daily sweeping and dusting of classrooms is also carried out after school hours.

Children could leave school when they were 13 provided they had put in 350 attendances and were in the 7th standard, but since the Act providing no employment of children under 14 the Council have asked for Bye Laws to keep children at school till the age of 14, otherwise there would be nothing for a certain group but to play in the streets.

All schools are regularly disinfected with a sprayer.

There are now four School Nurses who combine the duties of Health Visitors. Each is allotted one district, and each has an Infant Welfare Centre. They also do visiting under the County Council as Tuberculosis visitors.

The work of the School Nurses is to assist in the preparatory arrangements for inspection, obtaining information of the family history and previous illness of the children to be inspected; the keeping of records; systematic visitation of schools; visits to the homes of children excluded by the School Medical Officer; giving advice to parents in treating minor ailments and verminous conditions, and generally in safeguarding the health of the scholars.

In the latter part of the year, the purchase of an Army Hut was sanctioned, has now arrived but is not yet put together. The purchase of the Hut was approved by representatives from the Board of Education, who came down with full authority and inspected the proposed site of erection. We have not yet however obtained the final approval as to its erection. This Hut will be a minor ailments centre for all areas. Cradley Heath and Old Hill will both hold their own centres of Infant Welfare on separate afternoons in this hut. It will be used for lectures and talks to mothers in afternoons. In the morning it will be devoted to dental and eye work for all the wards. It is situated in a central part of the whole area, and various departments will make their arrangements for an interview with a Dental Specialist and an Eye Surgeon, who will be provided with a dark room and electric light.

The nurse whose school he is attending will be present. The schools are grouped as follows :—

No. 1 DISTRICT.

Cradley Heath	}	One School Nurse who is also District Visitor to mothers in the streets adjoining.	
Corngreaves			
Reddal Hill			

No. 2 DISTRICT.

Macefields	}	Do. do.	
Old Hill			
Wright's Lane			

No. 3 DISTRICT.

Beeches Road	}	Do. do.	
Black Heath			
Siviter's Lane			
R. R. Ch. of England			

No. 4 DISTRICT.

Tividale	}	Do. do.	
The Knowle			
Doulton Road			

In cases of Tonsils and Adenoids, the Council are arranging to have two permanent beds at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, at the disposal of the Council for certain cases who require to be kept in a night or two, such as Tonsils and Adenoids, Glands of the Neck, treatment of ringworm, by X-ray treatment, or other ailments that require regularly the attendance of a nurse.

The Army Hut which is now ready for erection will include a waiting room, dental and minor ailments room, room, recovery room, and dark room for eye specialist, hot and cold water, pipes and radiators would be supplied. It will be open one afternoon a week for Infant Welfare for Cradley Heath, one for Old Hill, different Nurses attending each time according to the area from which the children come. I propose this as the main clinic as

it is only a tram car ride from each area. On other days it will be used for health lectures, demonstration of children's garments and the making of them, and will be in addition an ante-natal centre.

The hut will suffice :—

- (a) To serve as a Centre for the examination of certain children who cannot with advantage be examined in school buildings.
- (b) To serve as a centre from which all work associated with the welfare of children could be supervised.
- (c) To serve as a centre for co-ordinating the agencies for "following up."
- (d) To afford facilities for the supervision of children suffering from such conditions as uncleanliness and ringworm.
- (e) To enable a more complete supervision of all cases of Phthisis to be exercised.
- (f) The examination of children suffering from infectious ailments before their return to school.
- (g) To provide a centre to which Attendance Officers, School Nurses, and Head Teachers may send children who are not under medical treatment, but are absent from school for some indefinite reason.

The buying of the hut was sanctioned by the Council and the Board of Education.

Food.

There are 36 cowsheds and 44 purveyors of milk. No infectious disease has been traced to milk. There has been 155 visits paid to dairies and cowsheds, etc.

In a very few and necessitous cases "free milk" in the form of Boxes of "Glaxo" has been given, and will have to be given later on, as I am anticipating trouble very shortly in the labour world.

Meat.

The meat inspection has been carried out by the Chief Inspector. 594 visits have been made to Slaughterhouses during the year. Very little disease has been found in the cattle slaughtered. There is no Public Abattoir in the district. A prosecution was taken under the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, for selling unsound meat. A fine of £5 and costs was imposed. A second action for selling unsound pork was brought into Court and the defendant was fined £5 and costs.

Sanitary Administration.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the School Medical Officer. He is assisted by four whole time School Nurses. Each School Nurse is a Health Visitor for the district in her area. All areas are as closely confined to her school as possible. Once a week they come to the nearest Infant Welfare Centre where they are by payment supplied with dried milk, "Glaxo," "Virol," "Cow and Gate," etc. There are also two lady School Attendance Officers, who co-operate in every way in finding out cases for Nurse or After Care. I also have a clerk whose assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Chief Inspector is assisted by two Inspectors, one qualified and the other unqualified, and also a clerk. All of them work amicably together under the Health Department.

The only hospital that is within this area is the Isolation Hospital at Tividale. This is provided for 18 patients, and has a very good kitchen range. The Hospital is built on a solid brick foundation, in a healthy part of the district.

There were no enteric fever cases last year.

The following Acts and regulations are in force in the district :—

- (1) Infectious Disease (Notification Act) 1889.
- (2) Infectious Disease (Prevention Act) 1890.
- (3) Public Amendment Act 1890 (parts 1, 2, 3 and 5.)
- (4) Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890.
- (5) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order. Regulations established under this Order (March, 1889.)

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector include the inspection of work done and abatement of nuisances in the district. Inspection of milk sheds, milk shops, canal boats, workshops, workplaces, calcium and petroleum stores, enquiries into every cause of infection, removal of cases to Isolation Hospital, disinfection of premises, supervision of night soil and house Inspector.

Slaughter Houses.

	In 1914.	January, 1920.	December, 1920.
Registered	8	2	8
Unregistered	15	0	18
	—	—	—
	23	2	26
	—	—	—

Further details of his reports will be found embodied in this report.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES **AND HOMEWORK.**

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND **WORKPLACES.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of	
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)
FACTORIES—(Including Factory Laundries) ...	69	22
WORKSHOPS—(Including Workshop Laundries) ...	1498	358
Total ...	1567	380

II.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND **WORKPLACES.**

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.	
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>		
Want of cleanliness	345	341
Other Nuisances	26	26
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	14
	unsuitable or defective	8
	not separate for sexes	1
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	34	34
Other offences	4	4
Total ...	432	428

III.—HOMEWORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS.						OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE- SOME PREMISES.	
	Lists received from Employers.							
	Sending twice in the year.			Sending once in the year.			Ins- tances	Not- ices served
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.			
		Con- trac- tors.	Work- men.		Con- trac- tors.	Work- men.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(11)	(12)
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. ...	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Cables and Chains ...	4	7	445	2	2	76	74	74
Cart Gear ...				3	3	50		
Total ...	6	8	446	6	6	127	74	74

IV.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.						Number.
(1)						(2)
Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	1375
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Laundry ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of Workshops on Register ...						1412

V.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
(1)	(2)
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	22
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	18

Cases of Infectious Diseases during the year 1920.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1—2 years.	2—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Black Heath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
Smallpox -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup -	32	1	2	11	16	2	0	0	0	1	6	4	18	3
Erysipelas -	22	2	0	0	0	3	3	9	5	3	5	6	7	1
Scarlet Fever -	137	2	1	29	91	12	2	0	0	28	15	45	39	10
Puerperal Fever -	5	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum -	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis -	46	0	1	1	4	14	20	6	0	6	5	11	10	14
Other Cases of Tuberculosis -	14	2	1	2	4	3	0	2	0	2	4	2	4	2
Pneumonia -	189	24	17	20	41	21	42	15	9	16	61	24	44	44
Malaria -	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Dysentery -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis -	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Totals -	457	37	23	63	157	58	73	32	14	58	103	98	124	74

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

The control over infectious disease is by three processes :—

- (1) To isolate the child.
- (2) To fumigate the room and have careful nursing for the child.
- (3) To disinfect the room when the child is better according to the Medical Officer's instructions.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever has been very prevalent during the latter part of the year. From January to July 2nd there were only 11 cases notified. There was a steady rise for two or three months. One week in October there were 11 cases. From July to December the average number was 6 per week. Two of the cases reported died, one was of school age, and the other an infant. The connection between the cases was extremely difficult to trace, as out of the thirteen Council Schools situated in all parts of the Parish, (the one at Cradley Heath being about 5 miles from the one at Tividale, and many others scattered round about), all were affected thus showing no connection between the schools. The best and most modern schools were affected, viz. :—Tividale, Beeches Road and Siviter's Lane. No schools however had to be closed as the numbers apparently were equal in four or five schools. The cases were of an extremely mild character, and the children were allowed out of their houses strongly against the advice of the Medical Attendant and the Medical Officer of Health, within a few days. The mothers thought they knew better than their doctor. One hundred and thirty seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, of which eighty nine were cases of school age.

On next page is a table showing the notification of Scarlet Fever and deaths from Scarlet Fever of children of school age for the past ten years,

Year.	Number notified.	Deaths at school age.
1911	62	5
1912	100	3
1913	170	5
1914	210	7
1915	101	6
1916	50	0
1917	31	0
1918	14	1
1919	8	0
1920	89	1

Diphtheria.

Thirty two cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, fourteen of which were cases of school age. Two cases died from laryngeal Diphtheria within a day or so.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxic Serum is distributed free to all Medical Practitioners immediately it is asked for.

Forty seven specimens have been sent for Bacteriological examination, eleven of which were returned as positive.

Erysipelas.

Number of cases notified is 20, two of which were deaths.

Pueperal Fever.

Five cases were notified and three deaths.

Influenza.

Influenza is non-notifiable at the present time, although a few deaths occur from it.

Measles.

Measles are also non-notifiable, but from School Reports during the year, there have been 134 cases as against 724 for 1919. There were no deaths of children of school age.

Whooping Cough.

Four deaths occurred from this disease of infants under 1 year of age. This is also non-notifiable.

School Closures.

At the end of February Measles broke out to such an extent that the second infant class at the Knowle was closed down from March 2nd for three weeks. The epidemic was increasing to such an extent that the whole school was closed on March 9th for three weeks, and was then extended till after the Easter holidays, April 12th.

Influenza broke out to such an extent that on March 5th Tividale schools were closed for three weeks.

On March 16th Black Heath Council Schools were closed till after the Easter holidays, April 12th.

Doulton Road Schools were closed till the end of the Easter holidays.

There has been no closure of schools since that time. Articles of Provisional Code, 1919, viz. :—45 (b), 53 (b), and 57 have been strictly followed.

The Ministry of Health have issued a memorandum on Prevention of Influenza, and also emergency leaflets on Influenza, which all authorities are urged to have printed and circulated as rapidly as possible throughout the area. A supply of Anti-influenza vaccine (prophylactic) for gratuitous supply to all the local Medical Practitioners has been received.

Five thousand leaflets were printed and distributed throughout the district, through the schools, School Attendance Officers, School Nurses, and other Officers of the Sanitary department.

A supply of vaccine has been sent to all the Medical

Practitioners in the district, and a few outside Practitioners.

Any person who wished to be vaccinated was to apply to his or her Medical Attendant.

Pneumonia.

Compulsory notification of Pneumonia came into force on March 1st, 1919. It was however no true check on the cases of Pneumonia as it was hoped it would be.

One hundred and eighty-nine cases were notified and there were sixty-three deaths.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Through arrangements made by the County Council with the Birmingham University, a free bacteriological examination is made of the secretions from suspected cases of Malaria, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Tuberculosis. All necessary appliances are to be obtained from the Council Offices. The following table shows the number of specimens sent during the year.

Suspected Disease.	Specimens sent.	Result of examination.	
		Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria	47	11	36
Tuberculosis	72	10	62
Enteric Fever	1	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	120	21	99
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Adoptive Acts.

Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin Serum (Local Government Board's Order, 1910) for Curative and Prophylactic purposes.

Extension of the Provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, to include Poliomyelitis and Cerebo-Spinal Fever.

Scarlet Fever.

As there is no Isolation Hospital proper here for Scarlet Fever it is impossible to make any statement with regards to "return cases." The cases have occurred all over the district, 3,670 acres, and we have naturally had at times a second case in the house or near the vicinity, but these are contact cases proper.

There has been only four cases of Malaria, and those at the beginning of 1920.

Trench Fever.

Nil.

Locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

The circular sent about Anthrax from shaving brushes was promptly notified to every barber or shop likely to sell these brushes. These were left in the form of a circular by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is promptly notified by the Medical Practitioners, and the district nurses of Rowley visit these cases under the direction chiefly of the County Medical Officer of Health. Bacteriological examinations are made by the University of Birmingham under the Staffordshire County Council.

Notifications of Pneumonia for 1920.

Quarters 1920	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Blackheath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	84	14	9	9	13	9	17	3	4	3	38	13	19	11
2nd "	38	5	4	3	7	6	12	3	1	2	12	4	10	12
3rd "	28	1	2	4	10	5	5	2	0	1	0	3	9	15
4th "	39	4	2	4	11	1	8	7	4	10	11	4	6	6
Totals	189	24	17	20	41	21	42	15	9	16	61	24	44	44

Deaths from Pneumonia for 1920.

Quarters 1920	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Blackheath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	21	6	2	0	1	1	8	2	1	2	5	4	5	5
2nd "	12	5	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	4	2
3rd "	9	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	4
4th "	13	3	0	0	3	1	1	4	1	2	4	3	0	4
Totals	55	15	4	2	7	4	12	2	3	7	12	11	10	15

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis received during 1920.

Quarters, 1920.	All ages.	0—1 years.	1—2 years.	2—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Black Heath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	13	0	1	0	1	3	8	0	0	2	1	3	1	6
2nd "	21	0	0	1	3	3	9	5	0	1	3	6	5	6
3rd "	6	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	2
4th "	6	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	0
Totals	46	0	1	1	4	14	20	6	0	6	5	11	10	14

Tubercular Notifications (other than Pulmonary) received during 1920.

Quarters, 1920.	All ages.	0—1 year.	1—2 years.	2—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Black Heath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	6	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	1
2nd "	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
3rd "	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
4th "	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	14	2	1	2	4	3	0	2	0	2	4	2	4	2

Deaths from Phthisis.

Quarters 1920.	All ages.	0-1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65 and upwards.	Tivendale.	Rowley Regis.	Black Heath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	5	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	2
2nd "	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
3rd "	9	0	0	1	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
4th "	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	1	1
Totals	21	1	0	2	0	9	7	2	0	3	1	3	5	9

Deaths from Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary.

Quarters, 1920.	All ages.	0-1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	25-65 years.	65 and upwards.	Tivdale.	Rowley Regis.	Black Heath.	Old Hill.	Cradley Heath.
1st Quarter	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2nd "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3rd "	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
4th "	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0
Totals	8	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	1

Summary of Notifications and Deaths from Infectious Diseases from 1911—1920.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	NOTIFICATIONS.										DEATHS.									
	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Measles	...	724	157	990	267															
Diphtheria including Croup	32	12	10	14	20	18	33	35	15	24	5	11	3	64	7	12	13	45		26
Erysipelas	...	20	17	8	19	24	22	19	16	21		3	1	2	2	1	2	4	3	5
Scarlet Fever	...	137	8	18	31	50	101	170	100	62	2			1		6	7	5	3	2
Enteric Fever	1		1	8	1	5	2	5						1		1		2
Puerperal Fever	...	5	1		1	1	2		3		1	2		1		1	2		2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	46	39	44	50	35	45	63	85	35	21	29	30	29	30	28	23	32	33	29
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	10	18	26	34	48	32	65			8	8	13	9	18	12	12	20	16	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	6	8	6	5	10	9	10												
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...			2	1	1								1	1					
Poliomyelitis	...	2	1											1						
Dysentery	...		1																	
Malaria	...	4	13																	
Pneumonia	...	189	120								55	51	66	30	42	53	46	41	37	42
Small Pox	...		1																	
Totals	...	451	963	272	1144	452	253	381	357	221	147	100	104	115	132	100	106	148	96	121

Vaccination Returns for Year 1920.

Rowley Regis—No. 1 and No. 2 Districts.

	No. 1 DISTRICT.									No. 2 DISTRICT.									Totals.	Totals 1 and 2 Districts.
	No. of Births.	Public Vaccinations.	Private Vaccinations.	Statutory Declaration.	Postponements	Removals.	Deaths, not Vaccinated.	Cases not Vaccinated.	Totals.	Insusceptibility	Public Vaccinations.	Private Vaccinations.	Statutory Declarations.	Postponements	Removals.	Deaths, not Vaccinated.	Cases not Vaccinated.			
January	-	104	20	6	16	3	5	1	51		13	6	24	1		3	6	53	104	
February	-	117	24	3	15	2	4	2	51		25	9	26	1	1	1	3	66	117	
March	-	92	23	3	14		5		45	1	10	4	25	1	2	2	2	47	92	
April	-	107	28	6	20		5		59		20	2	22	1	1	1	1	48	107	
May	-	115	31	4	24		6	2	67		14	3	29		1	1		48	115	
June	-	104	18	5	23	1	4		51		16	9	23			3	2	53	104	
July	-	108	22	4	29	1	3	1	60		20	6	17			3	2	48	108	
August	-	107	25	2	23	1	2		53		18	4	29	1	1	2		54	107	
September	-	101	13	4	21		3	2	44		21	5	26	1		4		57	101	
October	-	84	10	3	17		1	5	36		19	3	23		2		1	48	84	
November	-	88	13	4	25			8	51		12	4	13			4	4	37	88	
December	-	87	9	5	18		3	16	51		8	2	17				9	36	87	
Totals	-	1214	236	49	245	8	41	37	619	1	196	57	274	5	8	24	30	595	1214	

Infantile Mortality during the year 1920.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Influenza -							1	2	1	4
Measles -								2		2
Whooping Cough -							2		2	4
Diarrhoea -						1	1			2
Enteritis -			1		1	4	5	3		13
Tubercular Meningitis -						1	1	1	1	3
Congenital Malformations -	1		1		2	1		1		4
Premature Birth -	14	1			15	2				17
Atrophy, Debility Marasmus	2	1			3	5	2	1		11
Atalectasis -	3				3					3
Injury at Birth -										
Syphilis -						1				1
Convulsions -	2	1			3	1		1		5
Bronchitis -			2		2	4	1	1	1	9
Pneumonia (all forms) -						3	5	7		16
Suffocation (overlying) -						1				
Other causes -	4	2	1		7	2	4		2	15
Totals	26	5	5		36	25	22	18	8	109

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

We herewith submit to you our Annual Report on the Health Work completed in the three divisions of the district during the year ending December 31st, 1920.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Eleven hundred and ninety five notifications were received, and of these eleven hundred and twenty four were visited.

STILLBIRTHS.—There were thirty nine. These were visited and enquiries made.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Four cases were reported. These were treated by local doctors, and each made a satisfactory recovery.

FEEDING.—The number of unsuitably fed infants is diminishing. For further particulars see Table of Infant Welfare Work.

Birth Returns, 1920.

Wards.	Actual Notifications.	Males.	Females.	Still Births.	Deaths.
Tividale -	103	52	51	4	13
Rowley Regis -	214	107	107	8	15
Black Heath -	238	117	121	1	14
Old Hill -	362	175	187	17	23
Cradley Heath -	278	136	142	9	14
Totals -	1195	587	608	39	79

Tuberculosis, 1920.

Under this heading cases of Phthisis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are included.

During the year sixty cases were notified.

Nineteen deaths have occurred. Six have left the district.

Dispensary treatment is still available. Those patients who have attended regularly have made satisfactory progress in most cases.

Fifty four primary visits were paid, and eight hundred and ninety two re-visits.

Pneumonia.

Two hundred and thirty nine cases were visited. Fifty four deaths have occurred.

Total number of Home Visits, 5939.

(Signed) E. O. HARRIS.

A. HOMER.

J. HALSALL.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Classified Statement of Actual Cases in the District at close of 1920.

Localisation of Disease.	0-1 year.		1-2 years.		2-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65 and upwards.		Tivi- dale.		Rowley Regis.		Black Heath.		Cradley Heath.		Old Hill.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lungs	-	0	0	0	0	2	10	15	37	36	31	41	10	14	0	0	5	9	13	20	13	13	25	35	32	31	88	108
Glands	-	0	0	0	0	1	18	7	9	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	6	4	1	10	12	7	1	28	21
Bones & Joints	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	2	4	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	4	2	3	9	6	4	2	19	15
Larynx	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Abdominal	-	0	0	0	0	2	17	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	2	6	0	9	0	20	5
Kidney	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2
Eye	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
Skin	-	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	3	2
Meninges	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	-	0	0	0	0	2	55	33	49	52	36	48	12	16	0	0	10	10	24	34	22	20	52	54	53	39	161	157

Summary of Infant Work for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

Month ending.	Infants Notified.	Sexes.		Infants Visited.	Still Births.	Practical Instructions.	Infants Dead.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Methods of Feeding.					Home Conditions			Revisits.	Totals.
		M.	F.						Breast.	Bottle.	Both.	Un-suitable.	Satis-factory.	Good.	Fair.	Unsatis-factory.		
January	- 117	51	66	100	6	6	3	0	75	15	10	6	94	70	25	5	296	402
February	- 92	48	44	91	4	5	3	1	81	5	5	3	88	69	20	2	295	391
March	- 107	45	62	102	4	8	12	1	90	10	2	11	91	82	15	5	228	335
April	- 115	56	59	90	2	5	6	1	71	3	16	7	83	71	10	9	325	418
May	- 104	54	50	82	5	2	7	0	62	5	15	0	82	80	2	0	352	439
June	- 108	53	55	104	0	7	4	1	83	10	11	10	94	89	11	4	307	412
July	- 107	55	52	120	1	0	13	0	111	5	4	8	112	98	14	8	200	322
August	- 101	50	57	100	7	8	7	0	82	7	11	9	91	82	18	0	208	315
September	- 84	45	39	81	3	7	4	0	72	5	4	2	79	75	3	3	177	261
October	- 87	41	46	75	1	7	10	0	64	4	7	7	68	65	7	3	307	383
November	- 87	48	39	73	3	6	2	0	61	2	10	2	71	61	10	2	656	732
December	- 86	41	45	106	3	8	8	0	91	10	5	6	100	86	15	5	279	387
Totals	- 1195	587	608	1124	39	69	79	4	943	81	100	71	1053	928	150	46	3630	4797

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Three Infant Welfare Centres have been established during the year.

Tividale Centre was opened on June 1st at the Council Schools. Rowley Centre on August 19th at the Council Schools, and Cradley Heath Centre on November 25th in Whitley Sunday Schools.

The average attendance was:—Tividale, 16 ; Rowley, 59 ; and Cradley Heath, 95.

Two nurses are in charge of the Cradley Heath and Rowley Centres, and one at Tividale.

“Glaxo” and “Cow and Gate” foods are supplied when required at cost price. “Virol” also when necessary. The above are supplied free in necessitous cases.

Simple dressings are done, and ointments, lint, bandages, etc., supplied for same.

Pattern garments are on view at each centre, and instructions given to mothers re making.

HOUSING.

The General Housing Conditions of the District.

The general housing conditions are of the small working class type, and the shortage is somewhat acute.

According to the survey taken the year previously the estimated number of houses required were 900. Very few have been built during the year to overcome the shortage, though in some cases a few have been built by private individuals for their own use. One speculative builder built about half-a-dozen during the year, but these were too dear for the working class people of the district to purchase.

There has been no important change in the population during the year, nor are any changes anticipated which will seriously affect the population.

Overcrowding.

The population per house is 4·8, and approximately the overcrowding balance is roughly 3,000 persons. These figures are chiefly taken from the housing survey of last year. To deal with the state of affairs, the housing taken up by the Council is now in progress, and the Office of Works are building 250 houses in Black Heath, and arrangements for procuring other sites in Tividale and Rowley Regis are well in hand. Few extreme cases of overcrowding during the year have been found, and only in one case in the Rowley Regis Ward had action to be taken to cause to be evacuated an unhealthy and overcrowded out-house.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard of the housing in the district is not a high one, this on account of the working class type of dwellings. The chief defects of the houses found to exist is dampness. This may be due to the lack of eaves spouting. Many houses still exist which do not afford "free ventilation," on account of the windows

being of a fixed type. The minor defects may be due to the negligence of the owners, but the chief defects are caused by the old conditions of the property, and from subsidence. The general action taken with regard to unfit houses has been taken under the Public Health Act, but owing to the high price and scarcity of labour, the minor defects have chiefly been dealt with. Only in two cases has it appeared necessary to proceed under the Housing Acts where the premises were closed, particulars of which will be found in the Appendices. Much difficulty was experienced in effectually remedying the general fitness of the house on account of the old conditions of the houses, the smallness of the type, and the cramped up state of in which they appear to have been built, though it must be stated that very much open space is in evidence at the rear of all the dwellings. Nothing has been done this year with respect to the conversions of back-to-back houses, on account of the shortage of accommodation, but is contemplated as the times improve. The water supply of the district appears to be fairly satisfactory, and the water though hard, is of a good character, and is supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Works. The water carriage system is in operation throughout the whole district except in the remote rural parts, and very few privies now exist.

The refuse disposal as previously mentioned is carried out under contract, and put on "tips" away from habitation. Difficulty was experienced during the year and stringent methods were taken by the Council at the time, and at the time of writing it is in a very satisfactory condition.

Unhealthy Areas.

There has been no action taken with regard to unhealthy areas under the Housing Act of 1890.

Bye Laws.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings within the meaning of the Act, and therefore no Bye Laws are in

existence. The need for new Bye Laws to deal with Tents, Vans, and other structures were deemed necessary, and these are now well in hand.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

C. H. COX,

M.O.H., R.R.U.D.C.

APPENDICES.

Housing Conditions.

STATISTICS.—YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

1.—General.

1.	Estimated population	-	-	-	39334
2.	General death rate	-	-	-	527
3.	Death rate from tuberculosis	-	-	-	39
4.	Infantile mortality (109 deaths)	-	-	-	82·8
5.	Number of dwelling houses of all classes	-	-	-	9974
6.	Number of working class dwelling houses	-	-	-	6684
7.	Number of new working class houses erected	-	-	-	0

2.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1.—INSPECTION.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	1451
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	-	-	-	140
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	2
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	100

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

1.	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	-	-	86
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc. Act, 1919.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Notices were served requiring repairs	-	0
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit		
	(a) By owners	-	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-	0
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of		
	declarations by owners of intention to close	-	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Notices were served requiring defects to be		
	remedied	-	0
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were		
	remedied :—		
	(a) By owners	-	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	-	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc. Act, 1909.

1.	Number of representations made with a view to		
	the making of Closing Orders	-	2
2.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Closing Orders were made	-	2
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling		
	houses having been rendered fit	-	0
4.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which		
	Demolition Orders were made	-	1
5.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance		
	of Demolition Orders	-	1

3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part 1 or (b) Part 2 of the Act of 1890.

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Name of area | - | - | - | - |
| 2. Acreage | - | - | - | - |
| 3. Number of working class houses in area | - | - | - | - |
| 4. Number of working class persons to be displaced | - | - | - | - |

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc. Act, 1919 | - | - | - | - |
|--|---|---|---|---|

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.—Staff engaged on housing work, with, briefly, the duties of each officer | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|

The Housing Inspections are carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances who is assisted by the Assistant Inspector.

Ditches Cleaned Out during the Year 1920.

JANUARY.

300 yards at Elbow Street and Garratt's Lane, Old Hill.

FEBRUARY.

850 yards at Lye Cross, Rowley Regis.

250 yards at Gorsty Hill, Blackheath.

APRIL.

1,575 yards at Oakham, Rowley Regis.

MAY.

925 yards at Gipsy Lane, Tividale.

475 yards at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis.

JULY.

700 yards at Hayseech, Old Hill.

950 yards at Oldbury Road, Blackheath.

AUGUST.

175 yards at Birmingham Road, Rowley Regis.

225 yards at Halesowen Road, Old Hill.

SEPTEMBER.

190 yards at Barley Mow, Gipsy Lane, Tividale.

OCTOBER.

125 yards at Dudley Wood Road, Cradley Heath.

NOVEMBER.

450 yards at Ross Road, Blackheath.

DECEMBER.

225 yards at Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.

Total - 7415 yards.

Pipes laid during the Year 1920.

MARCH.

25 yards of 9in. at Gorsty Hill Road.

APRIL.

25 yards of 12in. at the Cemetery.

10 yards of 9in. at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis.

MAY.

6 yards of 6in. at Gipsy Lane.

JUNE.

21 yards of 6in. at Groveland Road, Tividale.

JULY.

12 yards of 6in. at Groveland Road, Tividale.

7 yards of 6in. at Tipton Road, Tividale.

2½ yards of 9in. at Queen Street, Cradley Heath.

7 yards of 12in. at Queen Street, Cradley Heath.

25 yards of 9in. at Halesowen Road.

AUGUST.

12½ yards of 6in. at Perry's Lake.

12½ yards of 6in. at Groveland Road, Tividale.

25 yards of 9in. at Springfield.

OCTOBER.

30 yards of 6in. at Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis.

25 yards of 9in. at Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis.

DECEMBER.

30 yards of 6in. at Groveland Road, Tividale.

Total · 275½ yards.

New Kerbing and Channelling laid during the year 1920.

MAY.

25 yards High Street, Blackheath.

JULY.

25 yards High Street, Blackheath.

AUGUST.

25 yards High Street, Blackheath.

SEPTEMBER.

25 yards High Street, Blackheath.

DECEMBER.

50 yards High Street, Blackheath.

Total - 150 yards.

WILLIAM H. BRETTELL,

Surveyor.

March 26th, 1921.

